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LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to advise of its most resolute opposition to the decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Bernard Kouchner, to establish the customs service and, in particular, to introduce a foreign currency in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

The decision of Special Representative Kouchner to establish "the customs and other related services in Kosovo" (regulation No. 1999/3 of 1 September 1999) is a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), in particular its provisions reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition to kowtowing to terrorism and separatism, this decision violates the constitutional and legal order of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its economic, financial-monetary and customs systems. It is also contrary to the mandate of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and constitutes a usurpation of legislative authority whereby, by personal decrees, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General takes his own decisions establishing customs and related services and introducing a separate currency and a fiscal and budgetary system of Kosovo and Metohija in a unilateral violation of international agreements and conventions that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed with other countries (bilateral agreements with Macedonia on the liberalization of the regime of mutual trade exchange).

In reminding you that I have drawn attention to the establishment of the "customs service of Kosovo" in my letter to the President of the Security Council of 20 August 1999 (S/1999/899), I take this opportunity to reiterate the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, contained in that letter, that the said and related services "be disbanded, that Yugoslav customs officers be allowed to return to the border crossings to Albania and Macedonia, and that the Yugoslav customs service in Kosovo and Metohija be enabled to function undisturbed."

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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